Adirondack Chairs

Adirondack chairs have been popular for many years because they are comfortable, sturdy, and easy to construct. We will show you two variations of the design, and even more variations of the style of the back of the chair.

To start, we'll point out the two variations of chair styles. Each is simple to build, and uses standard lumber. The chair design on the left is the original design, and the design on the right is a little updated with a curved seat and new back legs. Most of our discussion here will be appropriate for either style. You can even mix and match by doing such things as adding the curved seat to the original design chair.
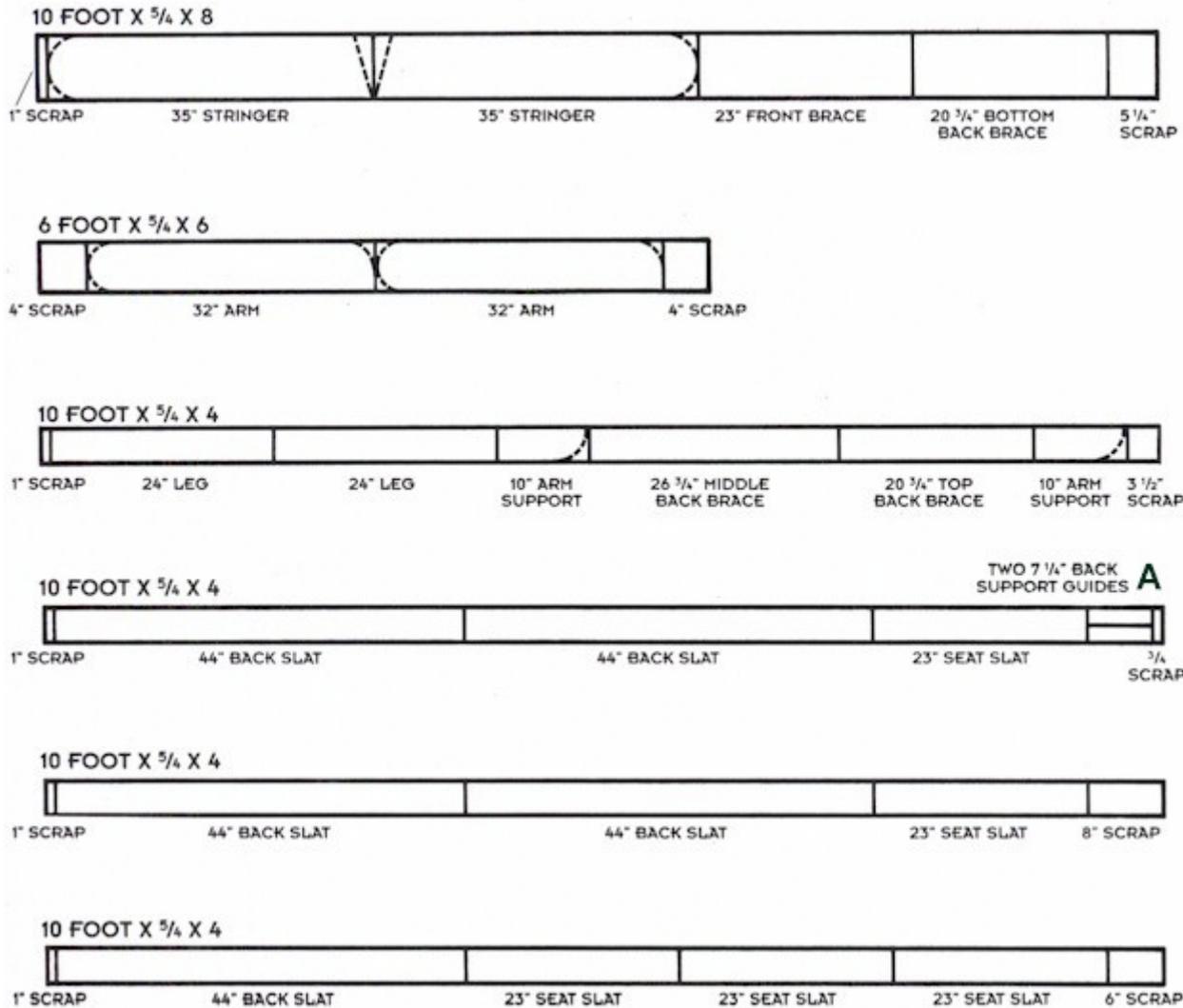
Original Style   Updated Style

Overview: Adirondack chairs can be made from a variety of woods. The most common wood used in their construction is 5/4 pine. My recommendation is to use southern yellow pine (SYP) because it's high resin content makes it naturally resistant to decay. If you have trouble locating 5/4 SYP look for pine stair tread material. Stair tread material comes almost free of knots because it comes from the center of the tree.   Let's get started...

Step 1: Mark and cut your materials per the cutting diagram on the next page. Sand and smooth each piece in preparation for assembly.
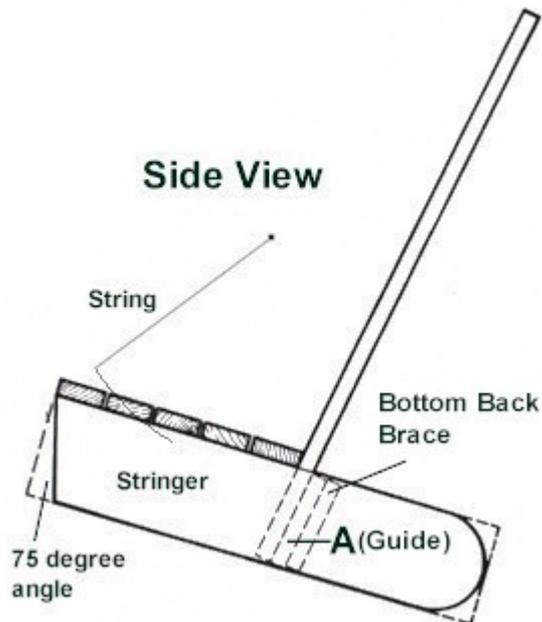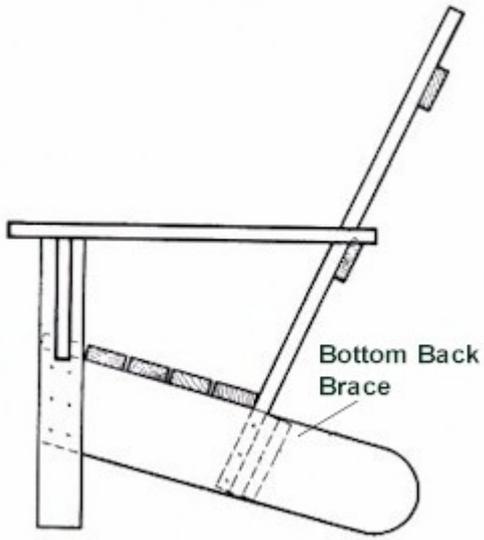
Wood Cutting Diagram

10 FOOT X ⁵⁄₄ X 8

1" SCRAP	35" STRINGER	35" STRINGER	23" FRONT BRACE	20 ¾" BOTTOM BACK BRACE	5 ¼" SCRAP

6 FOOT X ⁵⁄₄ X 6

4" SCRAP	32" ARM	32" ARM	4" SCRAP

10 FOOT X ⁵⁄₄ X 4

1" SCRAP	24" LEG	24" LEG	10" ARM SUPPORT	26 ¾" MIDDLE BACK BRACE	20 ¾" TOP BACK BRACE	10" ARM SUPPORT	3 ½" SCRAP

10 FOOT X ⁵⁄₄ X 4

TWO 7 ¼" BACK SUPPORT GUIDES **A**

1" SCRAP	44" BACK SLAT	44" BACK SLAT	23" SEAT SLAT	¾ SCRAP

10 FOOT X ⁵⁄₄ X 4

1" SCRAP	44" BACK SLAT	44" BACK SLAT	23" SEAT SLAT	8" SCRAP

10 FOOT X ⁵⁄₄ X 4

1" SCRAP	44" BACK SLAT	23" SEAT SLAT	23" SEAT SLAT	23" SEAT SLAT	6" SCRAP

Step 2: After the wood is cut and sanded it's time to start assembly. We start with the two back legs (which we are calling stringers) The 2 stringers are the heart of the chair as they hold everything else together.

Use wood screws that are 1 5/8" to 1 3/4" long for all assembly, except where noted. Always pre-drill the holes to prevent splitting.
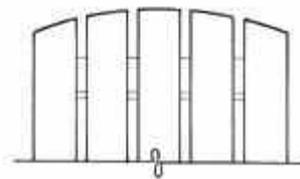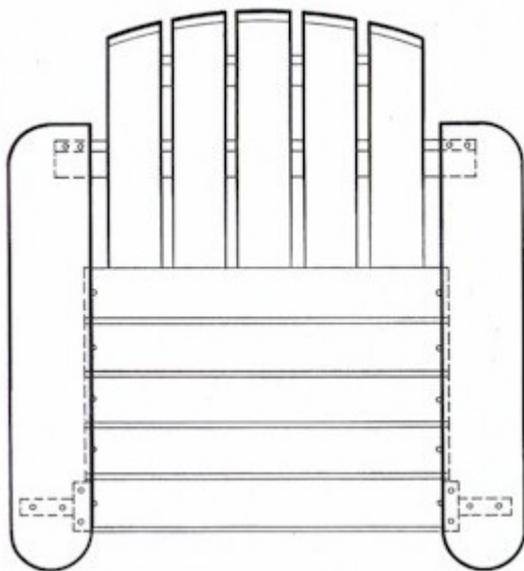
Note: Most assembly will be simply fitting the appropriate pieces together. The guides at location "A" (drawing on right) are noted on wood cutout diagram above.

Side View

String

Bottom Back Brace

Stringer

75 degree angle

A (Guide)

The string shown in the drawing above indicates how to cut curves for the seat or the back (if desired).

Bottom Back Brace

Top View

Back Styles